

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, ETC.

APRIL 28, 1898.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. HULL, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 10121.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10121) to suspend the operations of certain provisions of law relating to the Quartermaster's Department of the Army, and for other purposes, having had the same under consideration, beg to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that it do pass with the following amendment:

Insert after the word "suspend," in line 4, page 1, the following words: "in the discretion of the Secretary of War, during the existence of war with Spain, or."

Your committee herewith submit a letter from the Secretary of War inclosing a letter from the Quartermaster-General, and make the same a part of this report.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *Washington, April 25, 1898.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter from the Quartermaster-General of the Army, recommending, in view of the immediate requirements of the Army and in order to supply it promptly during active hostilities, that legislation be provided by Congress to suspend until such time as hostilities shall cease the provisions of law applicable to the Quartermaster's Department as published in the annual appropriation acts for the support of the Army. As stated by the Quartermaster-General, the suspension or modification of the prohibitory and limiting provisions of the laws referred to is absolutely necessary to enable the Department to conduct its business under existing emergencies. Immediate and favorable consideration is recommended.

Very respectfully,

R. A. ALGER,
Secretary of War.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WAR DEPARTMENT, QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, April 22, 1898.

SIR: In view of the immediate requirements of the Army, and in order to supply it promptly during active hostilities, it is respectfully recommended that legislation be provided by Congress to suspend until such time as hostilities shall cease the pro-

visions of law applicable to the Quartermaster's Department, as published in the annual appropriation acts for the support of the Army, viz, requiring advertisement before purchasing supplies, animals, etc.; limiting the amount to be paid for the hire of civilian employees to \$1,000,000 annually, and that no employee of the Quartermaster's Department shall receive more than \$150 per month; forbidding that the number of cavalry and artillery horses shall exceed the number of enlisted men and Indian scouts in the mounted service; that no part of the appropriation shall be paid for horses not purchased by contract, after competition, duly invited, and inspected by the Quartermaster's Department; also limiting the number of draft animals to 5,000.

For the purchase and prompt delivery of supplies the requirements of the law now in force should be suspended or modified so as to permit purchases in open market.

The force of civilian employees must necessarily be largely increased, and in some instances, in order to secure certain classes of employees, such as masters of vessels, special agents, etc., whose services could not be secured for such amount of pay (\$150), it will be necessary to exceed that sum.

A reasonable reserve supply of cavalry and artillery horses should be kept on hand to supply losses as they occur, to keep up the efficiency of the cavalry and artillery arms of the service. To do this efficiently and promptly, the requirements of the law now in force should be suspended or so modified as to permit purchases in open market and an inspection by officers other than of the Quartermaster's Department properly designated by the Secretary of War.

The number of the draft animals must necessarily be increased, as the Army will, no doubt, be operating off lines of railroad, and in order to keep up its supply hauling by teams must be resorted to.

The suspension or modification of the prohibitory and limiting provisions of the laws referred to is absolutely necessary to enable the Department to conduct its business under existing emergencies, and immediate action by Congress is required to relieve this Department of the operations of said laws.

Very respectfully,

M. I. LUDINGTON,
Quartermaster-General, United States Army.

THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

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